

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL ASWAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 057126

EXDIS/TOSEC 479

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (PRICE, MELVIN)

SUBJECT: CODEL PRICE INQUIRY

REF: CAIRO 2456

FOR ATHERTON FROM SOBER

1. WE PROPOSE TO SEND THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM ASST SECRETARY MC CLOSKEY TO CHAIRMAN PRICE OF THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. THE LETTER INCORPORATES INFO PROVIDED IN REFTEL. WE WILL CLASSIFY LETTER SECRET.

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2. QUOTE. DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: IN RESPONSE TO YOUR RECENT INQUIRY IN CAIRO, PRESIDENT SADAT'S SECRETARY FOR EXTERNAL CONTACTS, DR. ASHRAF MARWAN, HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING IN-

FORMATION ON SOVIET MILITARY RESUPPLY TO EGYPT IN OCTOBER, 1973, FOR YOUR COMMITTEE'S CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION:

(A) A TOTAL OF 189 AN-12 FLIGHTS AND 41 AN-22 FLIGHTS BROUGHT 3,530 TONS OF EQUIPMENT.

(B) IN THAT SAME MONTH, BETWEEN OCTOBER 8 AND OCTOBER 22, SEVEN SOVIET SHIPS SEA-LIFTED A TOTAL OF 7,342 TONS OF EQUIPMENT.

(C) THUS, A TOTAL OF 10,871 TONS OF EQUIPMENT WAS RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH.

SOME OF THIS EQUIPMENT WAS LOST OR EXPENDED (AMMUNITION) DURING THE HOSTILITIES.

NO INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED ON DELIVERIES BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1973 AND MARCH 1974.

DR. MARWAN REITERATED THE POINTS MADE BY PRESIDENT SADAT TO YOUR DELEGATION; NAMELY, CONTRARY TO ISRAELI CLAIMS, EGYPT DID NOT RECEIVE REPLACEMENT OF ITS LOSSES. IT RECEIVED NO MORE THAN TEN PERCENT OF EQUIPMENT LOST. DURING AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE OCTOBER 1973 HOSTILITIES, ACCELERATED DELIVERIES TOOK PLACE OF SOME EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES CONTRACTED FOR IN 1972 AND EARLY 1973, BUT THE SOVIETS HAVE STEADFASTLY REFUSED TO REPLACE LOSSES, DESPITE THE EGYPTIAN CONTENTION THAT THEY HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO DO SO. THE PRESIDENT IS CONCERNED THAT SOME U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES MAY HAVE UNCRITICALLY ACCEPTED ISRAELI CLAIMS ABOUT THE EXTENT OF SOVIET RESUPPLY.

IN VIEW OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THIS MATTER, PRESIDENT SADAT HOPES THE COMMITTEE WILL KEEP THESE DATA CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL APPRECIATE WHY DETAILS CANNOT BE PROVIDED AT THIS TIME. SINCERELY, ROBERT J. MC CLOSKEY.
UNQUOTE.

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3. REQUEST YOUR CONCURRENCE. INGERSOLL

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NNN

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